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Four people are arrested over helicopter crash that killed Mexican governor and her husband in 2018

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- Her husband Rafael Moreno Valle, who had preceded her as the region's governor, was also killed, as were three others
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By ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUBLISHED: 20:09 EST, 25 December 2020 | UPDATED: 21:42 EST, 25 December 2020

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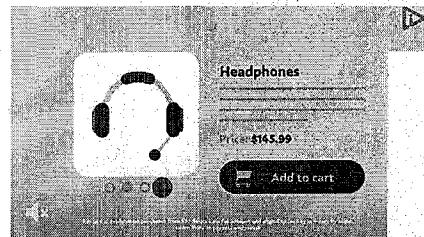
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Three other people were also killed in the crash.

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It said the suspects were accused of culpable homicide, damage to another's property and false testimony.

The Mexico City prosecutor's office said Friday that a woman detained in the capital had been in charge of the shop where the helicopter had received maintenance.

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caused by a technical problem known to the company that operated the helicopter and said, 'it should not have flown.'

He said maintenance records showed a preexisting problem involving stability systems and a piece inside with two loose screws.

The crash prompted political suspicion because Moreno Valle was a rising figure in the opposition National Action Party, which had governed Mexico from 2000 to 2012.

That party went on to lose the state election held to replace Alonso.

Her own victory in 2018 had been challenged by the party of current President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, but was upheld.

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Emergency rescue personnel, the army and the police work at the scene of the helicopter crash near Puebla City, Mexico on December 24, 2018

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The suspects arrested over the crash were accused of culpable homicide, damage to another's property and false testimony

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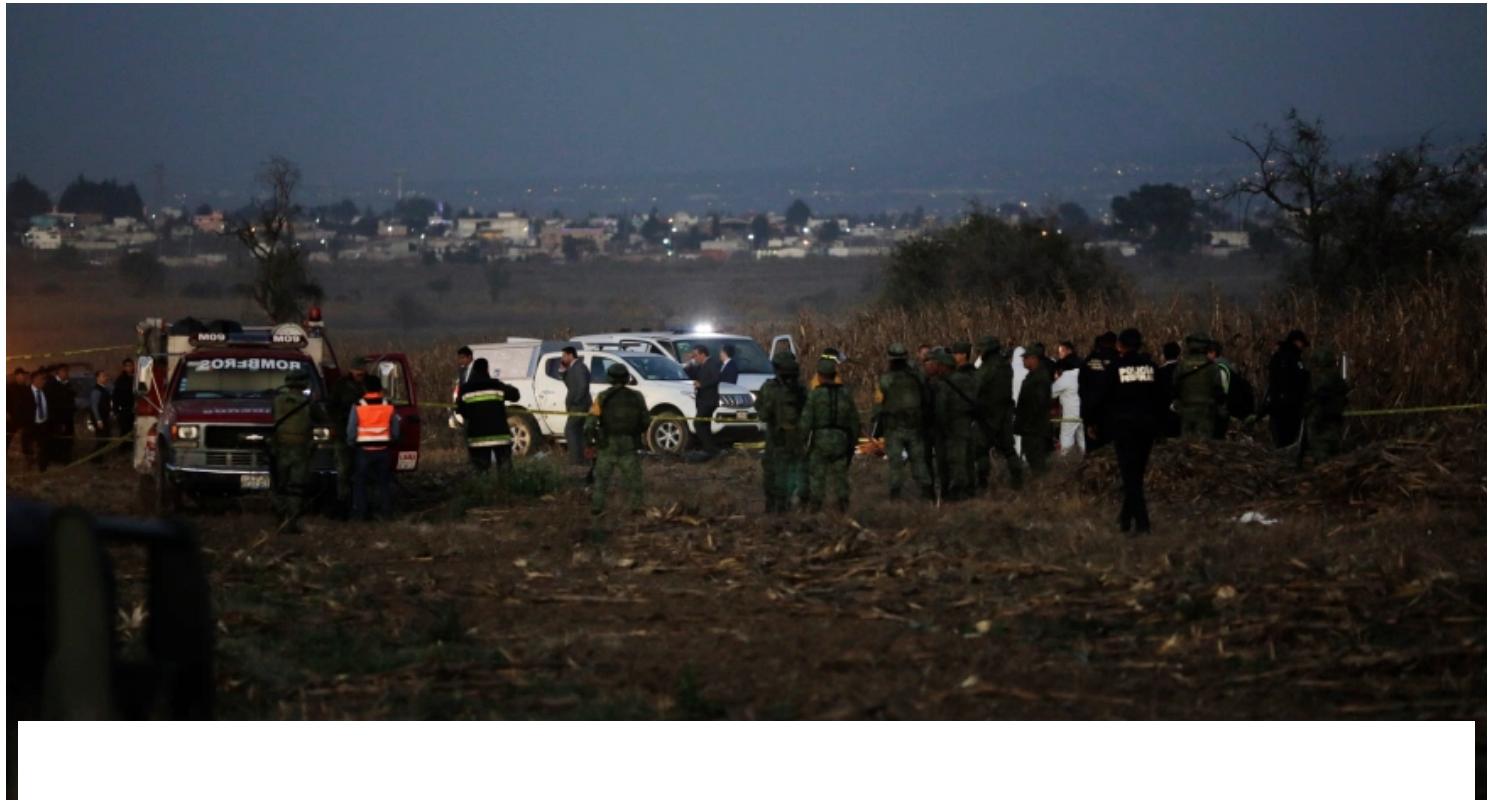
Paul McCartney performs a celebratory jig after bagging his first number one in 31 years - as new album McCartney III tops the Billboard chart

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INTERNATIONAL

Four arrested in connection with 2018 helicopter crash in Mexico



41°

by: The Associated Press

Posted: Dec 25, 2020 / 09:18 PM PST / Updated: Dec 25, 2020 / 09:19 PM PST

MEXICO CITY — Authorities say four people have been arrested in connection with the 2018 crash of a helicopter that killed a central Mexican governor and her husband — who had preceded her as governor.

The Agusta 109 helicopter crashed in flames 10 minutes after takeoff on Dec. 24 that year while carrying newly installed Puebla Gov. Martha Erika Alonso and former Gov. Rafael Moreno Valle, as well as three other people.

The Puebla state prosecutor's office said Friday the suspects worked for a company "related to the functioning of the aircraft."

It said the suspects were accused of culpable homicide, damage to another's property and false testimony.

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Mexico Arrests 4 People Over 2018 Crash That Killed Puebla Governor

By [Reuters, Wire Service Content](#) Dec. 25, 2020

BY NOE TORRES

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican authorities said on Friday they detained four people in connection with a helicopter crash two years ago that killed the governor of the central state of Puebla, Martha Alonso, and her husband, Rafael Moreno Valle, a senator and former governor.

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On December 24, 2018, their helicopter came down shortly after taking off from Puebla, headed to Mexico City.

Mexico Arrests 4 People Over 2018 Crash That Killed Puebla Governor | World News | US News

The Puebla Attorney General's office said the three men and one woman arrested are being investigated for homicide and making false statements, without offering further details.

The four worked at Rotor Flight Services, a company that had a role in the functioning of the helicopter.

Alonso, a member of the opposition National Action Party (PAN), had taken office just a few days before the fatal crash, which also killed the two pilots of the helicopter and an assistant of Moreno Valle.

(Reporting by Noe Torres; writing by Laura Gottesdiener; Editing by Dan Grebler)

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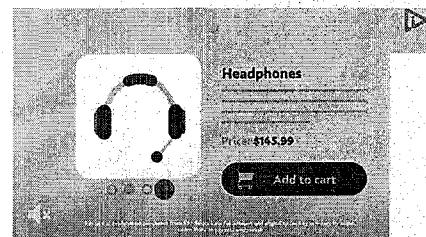
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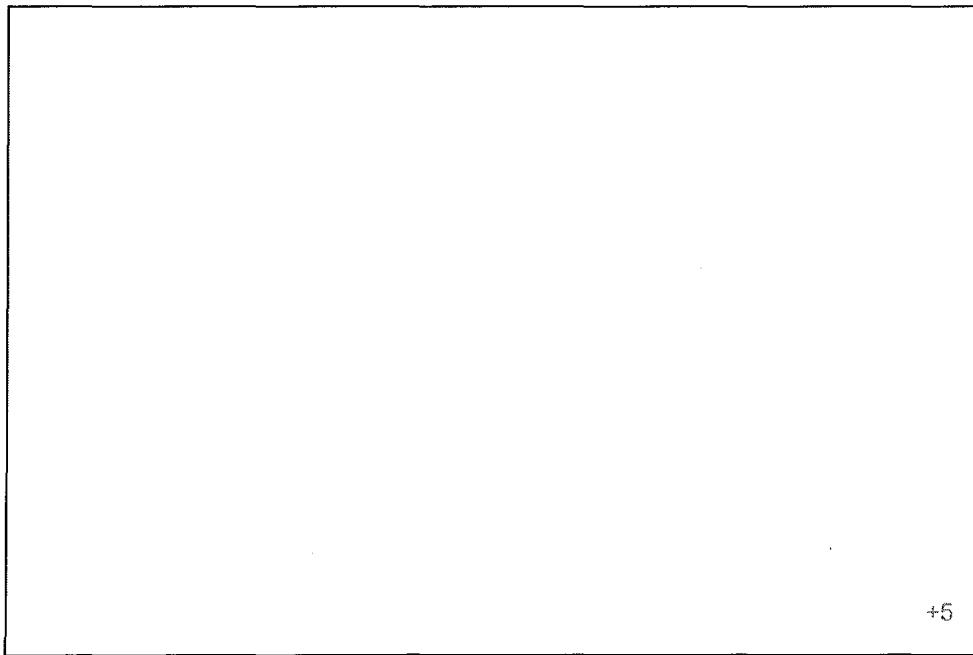
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4 Arrested in Mexico Crash That Killed Current, Ex-Governor

The Puebla state prosecutor's office said the four suspects worked for Rotor Flight Services, a company "related to the functioning of the aircraft"

Published December 26, 2020



Getty Images



Members of the Federal Police search the scene on December 25, 2018... [Read more](#)

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4 arrested in case of helicopter crash that killed governor of Puebla

The suspects were employees of a company that maintained the aircraft

Published on Monday, December 28, 2020

Authorities have arrested four people in connection with a 2018 helicopter crash that killed five people, including the governor of Puebla.

All four were employees of Rotor Flight Services, a company that provided maintenance to the Agusta A-109 aircraft, [which crashed near the city of Puebla](#) shortly after takeoff on Christmas Eve 2018.

Among the passengers were then-governor Martha Érika Alonso and her husband Rafael Moreno Valle, who preceded his wife as governor and was a senator at the time of the accident. Alonso had been sworn in as governor just 10 days before the accident in an election that was disputed by the Morena party, which alleged electoral fraud.

The crash raised suspicions of sabotage but a federal investigation concluded earlier this year that [there was no evidence of sabotage](#) but there were two loose screws in the rotor's linear actuator, which caused the helicopter to roll unexpectedly.

The four suspects are under investigation for homicide and making false statements. The arrests were made in Mexico City, México state, Hidalgo and Puebla.

Source: [Animal Político \(sp\)](#)

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